



DELAWARE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

September 9, 2014

DeDot; Farmington/Felton Room; Dover, DE

Attendance: William Allen, Janice Barlow, Madeleine Bayard, Heidi Beck, Cheryl Clendaniel, Janet Cornwell, Ed Dulin, John Fisher-Klein, Ed Freel, Carmen Gallagher, Paul Harrell, April Hill, Paula Holloway, Kelly Hunter, Valerie Jermusyk, Evelyn Keating, Brandi Miller, Mary Moor, Terri Murphy, Jennifer Spinks, Rich Spinks, Debbie Taylor, Betty Gail Timm, Kathy Wilson, Linda Zankowsky

1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

- Mary Kate Mouser welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Mary Kate Mouser asked if anyone had any changes that they felt needed to be made to the minutes before they were approved. Heidi Beck stated that at the last meeting it was mentioned that the Family Supporting Council was going to be connected to the Delaware Early Learning Readiness Teams. Mary Kate agreed and stated a correction would be made to the minutes to reflect the change.

2. Committee Updates

- Mary Kate Mouser shared that Michelle Wilson will be the new chair for the Goal 3 committee. Michelle Wilson is currently a kindergarten teacher with Capital School District. Handouts were provided that contained overviews of the goal updates.
- Mary Kate Mouser informed the council of the First Start Delaware: Early Head Start-Child Care Expansion Grant that was submitted. The one-page abstract that was handed out to the IRMC which included the highlights of the Early Head Start Child Care Expansion Grant, will be sent to all council members.
- Mary Kate Mouser spoke about the Preschool Development Grant that is due October 14, 2014. Kelly Hunter and Evelyn Keating are the primary contacts for this grant proposal.
- Mary Moor spoke about the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services (PBHS) recently awarded a Project LAUNCH grant. This five year grant allocates \$800,000 each year to promote wellness and address the physical, social, emotional, cognitive and behavioral needs of young children from birth to 8 years.
 - This is a joint initiative between PBHS and the Department of Health and Social Services' Division of Public Health in partnership with the Red Clay Consolidated School District, Nemours Children's Health System and early learning/child care programs.
 - The focus area of Project LAUNCH is neighborhoods that are feeder patterns for Warner Elementary and Shortlidge Academy. These are communities long identified with multiple environmental risk factors and gaps in services/supports for young children, birth to 8 years, and their families. These communities are areas of high poverty, have experienced high crime and violence and have few, if any, high quality early care and education programs.
 - Delaware's Project LAUNCH will utilize a public health approach to allow for improved collaboration and coordination across child-serving systems and the integration of behavioral and physical health services to ensure that children are thriving in safe, supportive environments and entering school ready to learn.

3. Connect to Purpose

- Brandi Miller provided a one-page overview on the Delaware Readiness Teams that contained a map of where all the 19 teams are currently located.
- Terry Thorpe and Diane Frentzel from the Milford Community Readiness Team provided an overview on what their team has accomplished since their development in July 2013. One of the first things the team did was conduct a community profile to gain an understanding of the strengths and priorities of the communities, providers, elementary schools, and the families. The team developed monthly flyers that were distributed at events taking place within their community. Looking toward their future, the team has also identified additional goals:
 - Continue to build team membership
 - 3 Family Education Sessions
 - Continue to work with Delaware Star Programs
 - Continue to build relationships with family care providers
 - Host activities at the local soup kitchens for children and families
 - Participate in the Milford Stroll Event
 - Find ways to support the Haitian and Spanish speaking communities
 - Event for grandparents
 - Continue to identify ways to distribute and share resources with the Milford community
 - Link elementary schools and early learning centers together

4. Vision Coalition ED25 Discussion

- Madeleine Bayard and Melissa Browne shared the work underway across the state of Delaware on shaping a new vision on education. They noted the Delaware Education accomplishments since 2006.
 - Increased student achievement on a more rigorous state assessment
 - More kids going to college than ever before
 - A 30-year low in the dropout rate
 - More high school students taking-and passing-college courses during high school
 - More access to quality early learning opportunities
 - Better career and leadership opportunities for educators
 - Two-time top winner of Race to the Top competitions, bringing extra federal resources into our early learning and K-12 systems
- Madeleine Bayard and Melissa Browne then had the group do an activity around what skills and attributes did the council think the Delaware students would need in 10 years. The group came up with a few attributes:
 - Engaged citizenship
 - Adaptable
 - Resiliency
 - Respect for themselves and other
- Madeleine Bayard and Melissa Browne shared the phases of the Vision Coalition and who has been currently engaged in the process. The group began with the focus on the student and what they determined a successful Delawarean looked like in 2025. The group then looked at how they could design a system that would support the student and came up with three essential system characteristics that should be strived for: Excellence, Equity, and Efficiency. There were six groups formed that worked on developing a vision statement and strategies that would lead to an ideal system. One of the six groups is around early learning. Nine themes emerged in the initial phase of the working groups recommendations:
 1. Personalize Learning Experiences
 2. Engage Parents and Families
 3. Ensure High-Quality Early Education Options for All
 4. Build Paths to College and Career Services
 5. Break Down Barriers
 6. Build Effective and Empowered Leaders
 7. Elevate the Teaching Profession

8. Expect Excellence

9. Institute Fair and Flexible Funding

- Madeleine Bayard and Melissa Browne had the group do an activity around what they felt could help make the council stronger and what excited them around this work. Some of the responses were:
 - No Delaware Head Start Association represented
 - Concern around child care centers feeling they were losing their preschool population
 - No mention of Home Visiting
 - The birth to three population knows and excels at social-emotional development and family engagement. Partnering with the K-12 world to share our expertise and to have the K-12 world share with the birth to three
 - Salaries for the birth to five population
 - Strategies around governance with all the numerous school districts
 - Changing legislation

5. Future Meetings

- A small group is being formed to develop the Trauma Informed Care council meeting.
- Members should have received an email in regards to the November 19th all-partner meeting at Delaware State University
- Meeting on December 9th. The focus on this meeting will be around Goal 4.